

Who Shall Enter Heaven?

Matthew 7:21

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FOCAL Read Together Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.

Our verse for today is just a small part of the Lord Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount*. The Bible tells us that **"Jesus saw the multitudes, He went up into a mountain. And when He was set His students came to Him"** (Matthew 5:1).

When Moses went up into a mountain he was a man speaking to God. When Jesus went up into a mountain He was God speaking to man. When Moses went up into a mountain **"there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, so that the multitudes trembled"** (Exodus 19:16). Moses went alone, for God told him **"tell the people if they break through the smoke to gaze at Me they shall perish. Do not let the people come up unto the Lord, lest He break forth upon them"** (Exodus 19:21-24). When Jesus went up into a mountain **He sat down so the people could come and hear Him**. When the people saw Moses they said, **"Moses, you speak to us and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us lest we die"** (Exodus 20:19). When the people heard Jesus **"they were astonished at His doctrine, for He taught them as One having authority, and not as the Scribes"** (Matthew 7:28-29).

What is the difference between Moses and Jesus? Moses was a righteous man, and a good man, a saved man, and he lived a life surrendered to God. But in the end Moses

was but a mortal man. Jesus Christ is God in human form. **"All things were made by Jesus, and without Him was not anything made that was made. He was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, full of grace and truth" (John 1:3, 14).** When Moses spoke he *reiterated* the Law that God gave to him to the nation Israel. When Jesus spoke He *clarified the Law*. Throughout the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said **"you have heard it said by those of old time but I say unto you"**. This is why the Scripture says, **"The Law was given by Moses, but Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).** By Moses was the Law, but by Jesus was the Love of God.

How does someone enter Heaven? Do we keep the Law of Moses? No, not at all. The Law of Moses kept the people from going up the mountain to meet God. The Law of Moses separated the people from God. We enter Heaven by going to Christ. We go up the mountain of God not trusting in ourselves, but trusting in Him. See Jesus seated on the mountain? Go to Him. Sit at His feet. Love Him for what He has done for you. Trust in Him. Invest your lives in serving Him. Love Jesus, and do as He bids. He has said **"if you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15).** Love Him and do for Him. Do for Him because you love Him, and you will one day enter Heaven. Believe on Him, and give all that is you to Him.

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

1. God Looks At Your Heart More Than He Listens To Your Words

FOCAL Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;

I remember an episode of the *Andy Griffith Show* that talked about a popular men's club in Mayberry. The doorway to the club - which was called "The Golden Door To Good Fellowship" - was guarded by Goober Pyle. You had to say a little phrase, and wait for Goober to say another little phrase, before you could get past the Golden Door and its ominous guard. In order to learn the password and get past the guard the members of the club had to vote for you. If just one member *black balled* you then you were excluded. Once inside you were able to drink all the root beer and soda pop you wanted, while sitting around swapping tales.

Heaven is not a club that you get into by calling Jesus **"Lord, Lord"**. You cannot just say "I'm a Christian" and enter into the House of God. You see, the Bible teaches us that

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Jesus did miracles - but that wasn't why He came to this earth. Jesus healed the sick - but that wasn't why He came to this earth. Jesus raised the dead - but that wasn't why He came to this earth.

When God gave the Law to Israel He gave it to show

them that they needed the love of God. God in love saved Israel from Egypt *without the Law*. Israel crossed the Red Sea *without the Law*. The Law was not given to save Israel, but to drive hard hearted Israel toward the love of God that would be revealed in Jesus Christ. What purpose did the Law of Moses serve? The Bible tells us:

Galatians 3:21-26 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for **if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. {22} But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. {23} But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. {24} Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. {25} But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. {26} For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.**

The Law points out that we were all sinners. The Law was the schoolmaster that brought us to Christ that we might be justified - declared innocent - by faith in Christ.

Dear friends, either you are sitting at the feet of Moses and the Law, or you are sitting at the feet of Jesus.

If you are sitting at the feet of Moses and the Law then you are yet under condemnation, for the schoolmaster is inadequate to save you. **You can only be the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.** You must sit at His feet. You must surrender to Him. You must believe that He and only He is God's means to save you. You cannot pay mere *lip service* to Christ, calling Him "**Lord, Lord**", and expect to be saved. God sees your hearts. People don't like to admit that they are sinners.

ILLUSTRATE Billy Graham once preached a crusade in Melbourne Australia. A man wrote the Melbourne Newspaper, saying: "**After hearing Dr. Billy Graham on the air, viewing him on television, and seeing reports and letters concerning his mission, I am heartily sick of the type of religion that insists my soul and everyone else's needs saving, whatever that means. I have never felt that I was lost nor do I feel that I daily wallow in the mire of sin, although repetitious preaching insists that I do. Give me a practical religion that teaches gentleness and tolerance, that acknowledges no barriers of color or creed, that remembers the ages and teaches children goodness and not sin. If in order to save my soul I must accept such a philosophy as I have recently heard preached, I prefer to remain ever damned.**"

This is what the world teaches. It is a *consensus of the world*, that morality is defined by the group or by the nation. Dear friends, morality is defined by God and God alone. The Bible tells us that

Jeremiah 17:9-10 The **heart is deceitful above all**

things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? {10} I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

God looks at your hearts, and your hearts - apart from Christ - are desperately wicked. God wants you to sit at the feet of His dear Son.

God knows whether you are trusting in the Law of Moses or in the Grace of God in Christ. He knows whether you have believed in Jesus Christ unto salvation, or whether you are merely giving lip service to God.

If you are not sitting at the feet of Jesus but are still looking at Sinai believing your works will save you I pray that God will take the blinders from your eyes. Salvation is all of Grace. It is all of Jesus. Repent of your ways and come to Jesus. Heed the words of Scripture:

Titus 3:3-7 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. {4} But after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, {5} Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; {6} Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; {7} That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the

hope of eternal life.

2. Those Who Are Saved Are *Born Again* To Serve In Christlike Love

ILLUSTRATE There are a number of things that people do that you will never see me do. For instance, I once saw a fellow who was teaching survival skills in the wilderness eat *two slugs*. Yeah, those slimy things. When I was a child I sometimes had a piece of mud pie, but if you ever see me eating a slug call them men in white coats. It's just not going to happen. Another thing you'll never see me do is *bungee jump*. That's where you tie an oversized rubber band to your waist and jump off a perfectly good bridge. If you want to do that be my guest. To me it makes absolutely no sense!

Something else that makes no sense to me is the person who says he is a Christian, but who will not *do* what the Lord says.

We are saved by sitting at the feet of Jesus, believing in Him and trusting in Him. Those who are saved **do the will of the Father Who is in Heaven.**

FOCAL Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.

What is "the will of the Father which is in Heaven"? First of all we are to obey Jesus. Jesus said:

Luke 6:46-49 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? {47} Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like: {48} He is like a man which built a house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. {49} But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built a house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

We who are born again by faith in Christ are called to serve Jesus. One of the most common things I hear when I visit the hospitals is this: "Oh, I'm right with God. I don't believe a person has to go to Church to worship the Lord. I talk to the Lord all the time." Dear friends, what is the difference between *you* and the *Pharisees that Jesus condemned*? Look in your context:

CONTEXT Matthew 7:22-23 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? {23} And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

These condemned people "**prophesied in Christ's name**". These were *preachers, Bible teachers and Sunday School teachers* who spoke words from this

Grand Old Book. These were *people who reached out to the sick*, and "**in Christ's Name cast out devils**". These were *philanthropists - people who gave to charitable causes* who "**in Christ's Name did many wonderful works**". And yet Jesus said unto them, "**depart from Me, ye that work iniquity**". Why is that?

Because the work apart from Christ is absolutely of no value. These people are doing the work *apart from Christ*. They never came to Jesus to know Him. You must *experience* salvation yourselves. You must see yourself as a sinner and come to the Lord to be saved.

Psalms 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

No one else can be saved for you. You cannot be saved while your hands firmly grasp other means of salvation.

The Pharisees - those that Jesus called "hypocrites" - would never sit at the feet of Jesus. They did goodly works, but never Godly works. They were *externalists* that said good things but never felt what they said. Jesus says to these people, "**I never knew you**". The word translated "**knew**" in our text is the Greek $\gamma\iota\nu\omega\sigma\kappa\omega$, (pronounced *ghin-oce'-ko*), which means "**to know by experience**".

The Pharisees did good works, but not out of a heart of love for Jesus. *Externalists* are satisfied with a shell of religion. Their works are without Christ and therefore lifeless. Jesus told His students:

Mark 8:15 Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.

The **leaven of Herod** rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem - but defiled the Temple by doing evil things within it. The **leaven of the Pharisees** was to do works of righteousness in the Temple Herod built, but to do them *so that they could be glorified and be seen of men*. Listen Beloved, the **Pharisees knew the Bible, but did not know its Author!**

Look at what Jesus said of the Pharisees. They "**gave money to the poor, that they may receive glory of men**" (Matthew 6:2). When they "**prayed, they prayed standing in the streets so they could be seen of men**" (Matthew 6:5). When they "**fasted, they marred their faces so others could see how holy and perfect they were**" (Matthew 6:16). They obeyed the Law and loved the Law but did not love the Giver of the Law. Jesus condemned the Pharisees, saying:

Matthew 23:23-28 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. {24} Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. {25} Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. {26} Thou blind

Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. {27} Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. {28} Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Oh how awful to be an externalist! The Lord calls people to sit at His feet. The Lord calls people to surrender to Jesus. The Lord calls people to not only hear the Savior, but to do as the Savior commands. The Lord calls people to a genuine salvation by trusting in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, believing on Him. Salvation is more than empty ritual. It is a life surrendered to Christ. **C.H. Spurgeon** once said:

"Their eye sees motes and overlooks beams they are very nice on points of ritual, and equally lax as to common honesty; the thing worth really having - love to God and love to man - they fling behind their backs, and fancy they shall be saved because they have complimented God."

Dear friends, are you *born again*? If so, you will serve the Lord in Christlike love. If you are *born again* then love saved you. If you are *born again* then Christ - Who is Love - dwells in you. If you are *born again* then you know that **Christ is the Head of the Church and the Savior of the Body (Ephesians 5:23)**. You know that **Jesus is the Head of the Body, the Church, and that He**

commands you to come together with like believers (Colossians 1:18). If you are *born again* you were born again to serve *together* with other Christians. We do as our Lord commands.

Hebrews 10:19-25 **Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, {20} By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; {21} And having a high priest over the house of God; {22} Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. {23} Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) {24} And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: {25} Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**

We who are saved are **brethren together**. He has saved **US**. Let **US** draw near to **Him**. Let **US** hold fast the profession of **OUR** faith. Let **US** provoke **ONE ANOTHER** to **LOVE** and **GOOD WORKS**. Let **US** assemble **OURSELVES** together as the **local Church**, **EXHORTING** one another.

Those who are *born again* are saved to serve *together* in Christ like love. We are to love one another, as this is the proof of our salvation.

1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. {8} He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. {9} In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. {10} Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. {11} Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

If you love not, then you are not saved. If you do not - in love - sit at Christ's feet - then you are not saved. If love is not the motivator of your good works then you are not saved.

What is the **will of My Father which is in Heaven?**
It is first of all to believe on Christ. It is to *know Jesus*, and to *be known of Him*.

ILLUSTRATE I have a little dog named Scooter. Often when I eat I'll give him the leftovers - the bones, the fat, the things I don't want. I love Scooter but he's a dog. He likes those things. Dear friends, God is not a dog. Christ is not Someone to Whom you give only the worst bits of your life to while keeping the best to yourselves. If you love Jesus you give Him all of your life. You give Him the bad, you give Him the good. You give Him your all. **"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"** (Luke 12:34). If you're giving God a dollar while spending many dollars on yourselves then you are still in the grip of darkness. If you're giving God a minute of

your life while giving hours to yourselves then you are yet without Christ. If you are doing good to please man rather than doing it to honor Jesus then you are confused, and perhaps lost. **The Lord knoweth them that are His (2 Timothy 2:19).** Does He know you? Do you know Him?

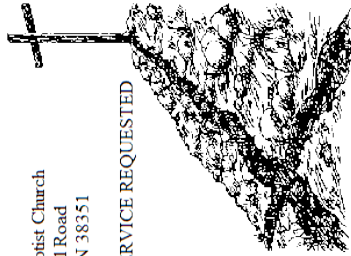
ILLUSTRATE There was a famous actor with a dramatic voice who offered to recite something for the audience. "Does anyone have something they would like me to recite?" An old man stood up and said, "I'd like to hear you recite the 23rd Psalm". The actor was a little shocked - after all, this wasn't Bible Class - but he went on to recite that wonderful old Text. His presentation was eloquent, and every word was beautifully said. When he was finished the audience gave the actor a standing ovation. Once the roar of the audience died down the actor - wanting to humiliate the old man - said "Now, sir, I'd like to hear *you* say this Psalm". The old man was a little flustered, but he loved the Lord Jesus. He stood and repeated the Psalm. His voice wasn't beautiful, and in a few places his voice cracked, but as he spoke something happened. His love for Jesus shined out of his words. Like the moon reflects the sun, Christ was in his every word. **"The Lord is MY Shepherd - I shall not want. HE maketh ME to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. Yea, thou I walk through the Valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for THOU art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. THOU preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all**

the days of my life, and I WILL DWELL in the house of the Lord FOREVER." When the old man was finished there was no standing ovation, but people quietly wept. The actor quietly spoke, saying: "Friends, my speech reached your ears, but his has reached your hearts. The difference is in this: I know the Psalm, but this dear fellow knows the Shepherd."

Do you know the Shepherd? May God lead you to sit at His feet this very day.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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**1. God Looks At Your Heart
More Than He Listens To Your Words**

Luke 19:10; Galatians 3:21-26; Jeremiah 17:9-10;
Titus 3:3-7 _____

**2. Those Who Are Saved Are *Born Again*
To Serve In Christlike Love**

Matthew 7:21; Luke 6:46-49; Matthew 7:22-23;
Psalms 34:8; Mark 8:15; Matthew 6:2; Matthew 6:5;
Matthew 6:16; Matthew 23:23-28; Hebrews 10:19-25;
1 John 4:7-11; Luke 12:34; 2 Timothy 2:19 _____

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